Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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P 011101Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9197

CONFIDENTIAL SEOUL 6917

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: KS, US, PFOR, MASS

SUBJECT: SECTION 412 OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE

AND ARMED EXPORT CONTROL ACT OF 1976

REF: (A) STATE 215418, (B) STATE 215019

- 1. DURING MEETING SEPTEMBER 1, I ASKED FOREIGN MINISTER PAK WHETHER HE HAD RECEIVED AS YET TEXT OF OUR NOTE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND REPORT ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HUMMEL'S DEMARCHE TO AMBASSADOR HAHM. HE SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED IT BUT HE HAD NOT YET PASSED IT ON TO BLUE HOUSE FOR PRESIDENT PARK. HE RECOGNIZED THAT HE MUST BRING NOTE TO ATTENTION OF PRESIDENT PARK BUT IS WAITING FOR RIGHT MOMENT, SINCE HE ANTICIPATES VERY STRONG NEGATIVE REACTION FROM PRESIDENT PARK.
- 2. FOREIGN MINISTER WONDERED WHETHER FULL REPLY TO NOTE WAS NECESSARY SINCE ROKG WAS BOUND TO RESTATE HIS POSITION IN TERMS THAT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO US/ROK RELATIONS. HE IS INCLINED TO LET HAHM'S REPLY TO HUMMEL ON AUGUST 13 STAND AS RESPONSE; IF FURTHER RESPONSE REQUIRED, TO STATE THAT ROKG IS STUDYING AND GIVING FULL CONSIDERATION TO U.S. NOTE. HE ASKED WHETHER THIS WOULD BE SATISFACTORY TO USG. REQUESTED ACTION: WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON THIS POINT.

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3. COMMENT: OF SOME RELEVANCE IS INFORMATION I PICKED UP YESTERDAY FROM SPEAKER CHUNG IL KWON THAT PRESIDENT PARK IS STILL HIGHLY DISTURBED BY CRITICAL WASHINGON POST EDITORIAL OF SOME MONTHS AGO COMPARING HIM TO KIM IL SUNG. HE REPORTEDLY HOLDS HAHM RESPONSIBLE FOR NOT DEALING EFFECTIVELY WITH THIS PROBLEM AND THIS EPISODE STILL COLORS HIS REACTION TO BOTH HAHM RECOMMENDATIONS AND US APPROACHES ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

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